



# Maidenbower Junior School

## Home Learning Policy

**T**ogether

**E**veryone

**A**chieves

**M**ore

**at MJS**

|                     |                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Approved by:        | Head teacher, SLT, GDPR Officer and Full Governing Body |
| Last reviewed on:   | May 2026                                                |
| Next review due by: | May 2027                                                |
| Version number:     | 7                                                       |

We define home learning as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At MJS we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see home learning as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Why give homework?**

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- It provides the chance for some one-to-one adult time e.g. in reading;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition calculations, spelling or handwriting;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

### **Home learning at our school**

We have had discussions with many groups of pupils and our children have given feedback to us regarding the type of tasks that they feel benefit their learning, as well as tasks that do not. Younger children spoke about the importance of reading and times tables, with some children saying "I don't like having to research and then write about it as it takes too long." Our older children gave mature answers when discussing the importance of homework as preparation for them for secondary school, while also identifying that they prefer tasks where they can be independent and not have to ask parents for help.

Using this evidence from pupil voice, and after consultation with the governing body, we believe that time spent on home learning should be focussed on the core skills of reading, spelling and mental maths. We have decided that no other forms of homework will be set during the week, so no home learning tasks will need to be given out, or handed in. Broadly speaking these are our current routines and expectations:

### **Years 3, 4 and 5**

- Weekly spelling which will be tested in class. This applies for all pupils, apart from children who take part in phonics sessions.
- Reading is 4 times per week and we expect children to record their reading in their reading journal, with at least one read with an adult to support fluency and reading out loud. We ask that parents sign this journal each week.
- Use TT Rockstars for approximately 3-4 minutes per day – 15-20 minutes per week.

### **Year 6**

As children reach Year 6, they will receive an additional home learning task to help prepare them for the demands of secondary school; however these tasks will be

purposeful, and will consolidate learning that has taken place in class. In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, Year 6 children may be given additional revision work.

These activities support key skills in reading, spelling and maths and make a significant difference to children's confidence and achievement in class. Recent data analysis in school shows that children who read regularly at home have made far greater progress than children who do not over the last term.

An additional and important purpose of our home learning expectations is to help children establish positive routines and habits. Developing independence, responsibility and consistency with learning outside the classroom is an essential part of preparing pupils for the transition to secondary school, where pupils are expected to manage a greater volume of homework independently, meet deadlines and organise their time effectively.

As children progress through the school, we increasingly expect them to take ownership of these responsibilities. Where home learning is not completed, pupils may be required to use breaktime to complete it. This approach supports the development of responsibility and ensures that learning expectations are met consistently.

If your child experiences any difficulty with home learning, or if circumstances occasionally make completion challenging, please contact the class teacher so that we can support you.

Our children work extremely hard in the time that they are in school and we hope that they can use additional time to pursue hobbies and interests, join the many after school clubs that we have on offer or to simply relax and talk to their family about their day.

We know there will be parents who want to set extra home learning tasks for their child and we understand that. On our website, in the children's section, there are links to excellent resources, along with other links to websites where children can further their learning. We will continue to share termly overviews to inform parents of topics, so family visits can be organised to support learning.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

### **What to do if you have concerns**

If you find that the set home learning is inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that tasks are given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with either of our two Deputies; Miss Negus or Mr Footman-Williams, or Simon Pike (Headteacher).

Signed by : 

Simon Pike  
Head teacher

Signed by :



Stephanie Linnell

Chair of Governors